and party animosities allowed to sleep. Is it in Austria, or Prussia, or not in a despotic country, that a true paternal government can be found? The education, health, and recreation of the people, their condition and comfort, should be held paramount. Why might not departments of education, and of health, be deemed to require separate secretaryships of state?—Such benefits would be fitting subjects for the attention of the higher estate of Parliament, and would make the influence of its members depend upon other grounds than hereditary rank.

The legislature must not only make enactments, but watch over their results; opportunities of improvement should be sought out, and this care should be extended to all classes, for it is a mistake to suppose that "the poor" alone require these benefits. The means of obtaining such ends must be made the subject of systematic study; every assistance should be afforded to associations for the health of towns; cheap publications explanatory of the different subjects should be extensively disseminated, and depôts opened, where approved inventions calculated to facilitate any of the objects could be easily obtained. When such subjects have been urged upon the attention of governments, or the example of some continental nations alluded to, the answer has always been, that it is the custom in England to leave all these questions, and improvements, to private enterprise, or to associations. Alas! the result of such specious but convenient reasoning. Public health, national education, the promotion of cleanliness, the comfort and convenience of dwellings, the condition of those who labour, and the nature of their employments, the endeavour to make exertion more generally lead to success in life, the recreation of the people, and the improvement of towns, architecturally,—all these, which are the elements of a nation's welfare, the first minister of the crown has already admitted are in a state "lamentably imperfect," or have "been grossly neglected." Additional powers should be given to local bodies, for the judicious enforcement of sanatory measures, and loans should be ready for them, and for individuals, on sufficient security. Exertion should not relax, until it can be said universally, "now there is no excuse for ignorance, for filth, for disease, for want of comfort, for ill success, for misery, and for crime; the individual alone is to blame."

As the public health will probably be the earliest measure that will occupy the attention of government, we may say something respecting it, although we have so frequently brought the subject before the notice of our readers. The facts connected with the health of towns, and the improvement of the dwellings of the poor, which have of late been assiduously collected and published, require no further addition.* They present the most complete evidence that could be adduced, of evils, whose influence extends in every direction, is not confined to one class of society, and demands the adoption of prompt and vigorous remedies. Yet, with the knowledge of the malady, the curative treatment seemed to have ended. A few sanatory measures talked of in Parliament, and the rumoured introduction of clauses in certain local acts, constituted every thing that it had been thought worth while to do for objects, important not only as concerns health, but in a multitude of considerations of a social, moral, and economical nature. The trite saying, that the full knowledge of the evil is the main step towards the remedy, might here have been of no value whatever: with that knowledge ended all endeavours; and for any present or immediate results, the report of the Health of Towns Commission might only yesterday have been issued. A continuance of such a state is now impossible, and could not exist at this moment, had the report of the commission been read, as it ought to be, by every one. The startling facts which it discloses, would ere this have determined every municipal body in the kingdom, to do what is now being projected in a few towns.

It has been shewn, that the principal causes of disease are defective sewerage, and a supply of water far beneath what is absolutely necessary for personal cleanliness and domestic purposes alone, without reference to that much larger quantity, which is imperatively demanded by the requirements of public health. One of the first objects which should occupy attention, should be the placing the paving, the sewerage, the supply of water, and of gas, under one management, so that the present most inconvenient disturbance of the pavement, by which great damage results in every single department, might be avoided. In order that these necessary measures may be carried out efficiently, and in the least expensive manner, perfect maps and levels should be at once commenced. Thus a body of information would be always obtainable, for want of which much useless expense is continually incurred. Such an undertaking, if completed on a large scale, would pay its own expenses, not only in the positive saving which it would effect to local bodies, but from the assistance it would render to architects, or to agents in the disposal of land, who would often obtain such certified information at any consideration. Judicious measures being so far insured, the opinions of scientific and practical men should be taken on the best forms of sewers and drains, the mode of cleansing, and the method of preventing the escape of poisonous gases from the gully-holes. These subjects merit the closest attention; they have till lately been entirely neglected.—It has been proposed to reduce the size of the sewers, substituting pipes of earthenware glazed inside, in order that there might be a constant current of water, so that no other cleansing would be required. A similar method for house drains, where it would be most efficient, has been already explained in these pages; but in the sewerage of a large district, we think there would be practical difficulties in the use of pipes of such small diameter. It must be recollected, that the sewers, which run into each other, must increase in size as they near the outlet, and must provide not only for the constant drainage from houses, but also for the occasional rain which falls on the streets and roofs. Much smaller sewers, perfectly free, would of course be more efficient than larger sewers partly choked.—The necessity for an ample supply of water is great, for domestic purposes, but is required far more for cleansing sewers and drains, for water-closets, and for aids to cleanliness. The former source of demand, in the words of Mr. Grainger, "although, of course, the most pressing, is, in reality, the one which would, under a proper system, cause the smallest consumption." "The domestic supply must *also* be increased to an amount, of which those who have been in the habit of selling and buying water in pints and gallons have no adequate conception." The supply should be carried to the top stories of every house, as, indeed, it is at present in some parts of London. We need not remind our readers that this is perfectly feasible, and an immense saving would at once result.* Indeed, the labours of the Health of Towns Commission have shewn, not only that there would be a very great saving, by increased advantages, from the institution of remedial measures, but that there would be an immediate saving of considerable amount, whilst the actual cost is probably not beyond the reach of any municipal body.

We need not, however, enter into a complete detail of all the preventible evils, as our readers are probably in possession of the information which is accessible to all, but we deem it necessary to press upon the attention of the Government the immediate necessity for undertaking a line of policy, such as the premier has already indicated, which would eminently distinguish his administration as one that sought the people's good, and would raise this country to a proud eminence amongst the nations of Europe. The questions which enter into the consideration of the public health are numerous, the suspension of all interments in towns, and the removal of slaughter-houses and similar disgusting nuisances, must have that attention which they have so long needed. It is not only a matter of health, but is one deeply affecting the morals of society, and every other question which concerns popular and public improvement.

Health being the most important consideration, it is to be hoped that education will be made a national measure.—Every facility must be afforded for the acquirement, not only of the simple elements of education, but also of the means of gaining a livelihood. Schools there must be in every street, and for all classes, not for the very poor only, for there are many among a higher class, who are greatly inconvenienced by the want of a good school that is easily accessible. Infant schools are more important than any, seeing that so large a proportion of the youthful population are led to embark in a course of crime, solely from the absence of their parents from home, and the want of a sufficient number of these schools, where children could be sent to play, instead of finding temptation in the streets.* Infant schools, also, should be established for other classes, who are often compelled to suffer inconveniences of a somewhat similar kind. Libraries and museums should be established in every considerable town, in which every person should have the opportunity of making any particular inquiry, or supplying a want of information. Museums should be devoted not only to antiquities and art, but to natural productions, and to articles of manufacture in the different stages of their progress. The removal of restrictions from the universities, the extension of the advantages of collegiate education, the establishment of schools of art and design, are all so many elements in what we hope may be the future glory of England.

Habits of cleanliness would be fostered by the improved supply of water to the poor, who are often quite without the means of getting it. The establishment of baths and wash-houses in every street, as we have already pointed out, should be encouraged. Institutions of so desirable a nature should not be placed in jeopardy for want of loans, the absence of which from the public purse for a year would be of trifling importance.

The comfort of the dwellings of all classes is susceptible of great advancement, but care must be taken that house rent, already making too large a proportion of every one's expenditure, be not increased, as whatever the advantages in health, and convenience, these *would* not be held sufficient, and the object would be defeated. It should be made imperative, that no house should be let, which had not been rendered habitable, that is to say, provided with water-closets, proper drains, and an ample supply of water. And, whenever the legislature do become the proprietors of railways, a plan for building residences of each class, in the country, the inhabitants being carried backwards and forwards by railway, which has been proposed in several places, should not be lost sight of.

Few people are aware of the small number of houses in London, which are inhabited by only one family. Whole streets of large mansions give the stranger the idea, that everybody must be in comfortable circumstances, for nowhere can be discover a small house. The result of this is, that the Londoner knows not what it is to have a home to himself, and he must either live in lodgings, or trust to letting them. If he have no means of support but daily labour at a trade, it is the general practice for his whole family to occupy the cellar, whilst the remainder of the house is let out to as many persons, as can be crammed into it. It is stated, that in Birmingham not a single cellar is occupied as a residence. In Manchester and Liverpool, it is only the most wretched of the poor who are domiciled in cellars, whilst in London it is ordinarily the only room of one claiming to rank much higher in the social scale. In Marylebone, the average rent of a second floor back room, twelve feet square, unfurnished, is 3s., a week, and the space has generally to suffice for two or three individuals. There is little doubt that under a better system, such accommodation could be had for 2s. or less.

The journal of the Statistical Society* shews that out of 5,113 families in St. Margaret's and St. John's parishes, Westminster, 3,852, or more than three-fourths had only one room, and in St. George's, Hanover-square, nearly two-thirds of the families visited had but one room. Now, the obvious remedy for an inconvenience such as this, which is felt in some degree by persons of every class, would be to build structures which may be occupied by a number of persons without that enormous expense, that great inconvenience, and those fatal influences in public morals, of which so

* The Health of Towns Association have published in a cheap form, Mr. Grainger's lecture, in which the causes of the unhealthiness, and their remedies, are clearly stated.

* It was stated, some time ago, that a company was in course of formation, for the supply of water on such a system as we have mentioned, at a rate very much below that at present charged.

* April 1840, and February 1843.

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